

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN WILLIAM D. FORD (D-MI)

March 6, 1984

Today we continue hearings into the development of a supplemental retirement plan for those Federal officers and employees who, effective January 1, 1984, are covered by social security. This is the third in a series which I expect will continue at least into next year.

As a result of the Social Security Amendments of 1983, there are now two distinct groups of Federal employees for retirement purposes -- those covered by social security and those who are not. For those not covered, existing Federal retirement systems remain an appropriate and essential part of the compensation package. But for those who are covered by social security, existing systems are inappropriate. Accordingly, we must develop a supplemental retirement plan to coordinate with social security.

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This morning we are pleased to have with us representatives of several unions which represent Federal employees. These witnesses are well equipped to tell us the concerns and desires of Federal employees concerning their retirement system, in particular, and their overall compensation package in general.

Our first panel of witnesses consists of Kenneth T. Blaylock, National President, American Federation of Government Employees; Robert M. Tobias, National President, National Treasury Employees Union; James Peirce, President, National Federation of Federal Employees; and Edward Murphy, Legislative Counsel, National Association of Government Employees.